

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 06

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3345

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT KS

SUBJECT: NEW KOREAN EMERGENCY MEASURES.

1. FOREIGN MINISTER KIM TONG-CHO CALLED IN AMBASSADOR LATE AFTERNOON MAY 12 TO INFORM HIM OF NEW EMERGENCY MEASURES TO BE ANNOUNCED MAY 13. OUTLINE OF NEW MEASURES DESIGNED TO CONTROL STUDENTS AND MEDIA GIVEN AMBASSADOR AND SENT SEPTEL. MEASURES BASICALLY DESIGNED TO PROHIBIT CRITICISM OF CONSTITUTION, "FALSE RUMORS" SPREADING DISTORTED FACTS, AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, ASSEMBLIES AND DEMONSTRATIONS BY STUDENTS, WITH PRESS, RADIO PUBLICATION OF SUCH ACTIONS PROHIBITED. MEASURES ALSO DIRECTED AGAINST PUBLIC SERVICE CORRUPTION, ILLEGAL EMIGRATION, AND FLIGHT OF CAPITAL.

2. FONMIN SAID THAT KEY GOVERNMENT LEADERS WILL BE INFORMED OF MEASURES TEN A.M. MAY 13, CABINET WILL PROMULGATE AT ONE-THIRTY P.M. AND MEASURES WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE THREE P.M. MAY 13. PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT WILL REAFFIRM JUNE 23, 1973 FOREIGN POLICY AND EXPRESS FULL CONFIDENCE IN US COMMITMENT. IN ADDITION EMERGENCY MEASURE NO. SEVEN, PERMITTING ARMY TO OCCUPY KOREA UNIVERSITY, WILL BE WITHDRAWN UNDER EMERGENCY MEASURE NO. EIGHT. NEW MEASURE WILL BE DESIGNATED NO. NINE.

3. FONMIN STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED TO INFORM USG IN ADVANCE, BUT THERE WAS NO PROVISION FOR CONSUL-CONFIDENTIAL

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TATION. HE IMPLIED CLEARLY THAT THERE HAD BEEN DIVISION OF OPINION ON MEASURES, WITH HIS OWN EFFORTS TO POINT OUT POTENTIAL ADVERSE REPERCUSSIONS IN US BEING OVERRIDDEN.

4. I EXPRESSED STRONG DISAPPOINTMENT THAT, GIVEN RECENT MAJOR HIGH LEVEL EFFORTS TO REASSURE ROK, NO EFFORT WAS MADE TO CONSULT EVEN INFORMALLY, AND TAKE INTO ACCOUNT POTENTIAL PROBLEMS WITH US CONGRESS AND PUBLIC. WHILE EMERGENCY MEASURES REALLY A MATTER FOR INTERNAL DECISION BY ROK, NECESSITY FOR MEASURES NOT PERSUASIVELY PRESENTED AND ALLIANCE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US AND KOREA INVOLVES MUTUAL OBLIGATIONS AND MUTUAL EFFORTS INCLUDING FULL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS TO ASSIST IN STRENGTHENING THIS RELATIONSHIP. I TOLD FONMIN THAT I WOULD BRING MEASURES IMMEDIATELY TO ATTENTION OF WASHINGTON AUTHORITIES AND ANTICIPATED THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO MAKE CLEAR PUBLICLY THAT WE WERE NOT INVOLVED IN ANY WAY IN DECISION TO PROMULGATE THESE MEASURES.
SNEIDER

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